

**Notice of Allowability**

Application N .

09/742,963

Examiner

Steven P Sax

Applicant(s)

PRABHU ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment 7/12/04 and Examiner's Amendment 12/15/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-6, 8-15, 17-21, and 23-30.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 January 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
STEVEN P SAX  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

1A.U. 2174

### DETAILED ACTION

1. The Amendment filed 7/12/04 has been entered.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. This was made to fix the error in claim 2 by deleting the run-on clause at the end of the claim. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. In claim 2 amended, at the end of the claim, please delete the last eight words "...a picture icon in said main display level"
4. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Roland Schindler on 12/15/04.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The Amendment filed 7/12/04 brings the allowable subject matter into all of the independent claims. The Examiner's Amendment 12/15/04 corrects a typographical error in claim 2, and thus the application is now in condition for allowance. Invention is a novel system and method for browsing and retrieving pictures in a picture database using a hierarchically arranged graphical user interface. Position information metadata

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corresponding to a geographical location where a digital image is captured for each image is stored with the images in the picture database. Using a geographical metaphor with picture icons, a main display level is displayed with each picture icon indicating a specific location at which a group of pictures in the database was captured, such that each picture icon is positioned within the environment of the geographical metaphor at a location corresponding to that position. Multiple levels are hierarchically linked so as to display further and further geographic specificity, while maintaining within each level's environment the picture icons being positioned at a location within each level's environment corresponding to the location within that level of geographic specificity at which the group of pictures was captured. An additional display level is then generated by activating the picture icon in the most specific level possible for each group, which may vary depending on the group, and which displays the representations of the actual pictures corresponding to the icons. The features combined are not set forth in the prior art of record.

Independent claim 2 amended shows the method as described for two levels of specificity as well as the additional level to display representations of the actual pictures.

Independent claim 8 amended shows the method as described for three levels of specificity as well as the additional level to display representations of the actual pictures.

Independent claim 9 amended shows the method as described for four levels of specificity as well as the additional level to display representations of the actual pictures.

Independent claim 10 amended shows the method as described for five levels of specificity as well as the additional level to display representations of the actual pictures.

Independent claim 17 amended shows the system as described for two levels of specificity as well as the additional level to display representations of the actual pictures.

Independent claim 23 amended shows the system as described for three levels of specificity as well as the additional level to display representations of the actual pictures.

Independent claim 24 amended shows the system as described for four levels of specificity as well as the additional level to display representations of the actual pictures.

Independent claim 25 amended shows the system as described for five levels of specificity as well as the additional level to display representations of the actual pictures.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

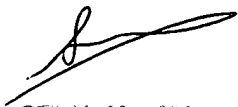
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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven P Sax whose telephone number is 571-272-4072. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on 571-272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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